



The Rip Tide



The E-newsletter of the New Hampshire Coastal Program

January 2007

■ N.H. Department of Environmental Services ■ 50 International Drive Suite 200 ■ Portsmouth, NH 03801 ■
■ (603) 559-1500 ■ www.des.nh.gov/coastal ■ coastal@des.state.nh.us

NEWS



[NHCP Announces 2007 Competitive Grant Round](#)

[Strafford, Brentwood and Lee Selected to Compete in National Process to Help Protect Land](#)

[The Inside Scoop: Ten Reasons to Start a Pet Waste Outreach Campaign this Year](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



[NHCP Welcomes New Seacoast Groundwater Availability Project Coordinator](#)

[There's no "I" in Team or Salt Marsh](#)

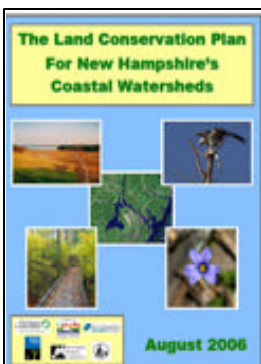
[Blue Ocean Society Reports 2006 International Coastal Cleanup Data Results](#)

[Grant Funding Available for Pet Waste Outreach Projects](#)

[Grant Funding Available for Marine Debris Outreach to Boaters](#)

[Calendar of Events Available on Website](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS & PLANNING TOOLS



[Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds, planning tool](#)

[Coastal Volunteer Biological Assessment Program Report, 2006 collection results](#)

[New Stormwater Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures Manual, stormwater management guidelines](#)

[Buffer Characterization Maps for 42 Coastal Watershed Communities, buffer maps](#)

[Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast, recent findings on projected changes](#)

NEWS

■ NHCP Announces 2007 Competitive Grant Round ■



The Fish Co-op, Seabrook, recipient of FFY2003 grant funds for construction of a new retaining wall.

NHCP is currently accepting applications for its 2007 competitive grant round. Through federal funding, NHCP enables projects that address coastal resources, like water quality protection, public access and education. Grants are offered on a competitive basis to eligible applicants, and at least a one-to-one match is required.

The funds are available to NHCP through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

This year's total available funds are pending federal funding to OCRM.

Grant Application Information

Application Submission Deadline

Two copies of the completed application and all associated documentation (including letters of support) are due at the NHCP office no later than Monday, February 12, 2007 at 4 p.m. The application form with instructions is available at www.des.nh.gov/Coastal/Grants/.

Eligible Applicants

Any of New Hampshire's coastal communities (Dover, Durham, Exeter, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Madbury, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Portsmouth, Rollinsford, Rye, Seabrook and Stratham), Rockingham and Strafford County governments, the Rockingham Planning Commission, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, state agencies, departments within the University of New Hampshire and other institutions of higher education, coastal community public school districts, and nonprofit organizations are also eligible to apply.

Eligible Projects/Activities

Grants are offered for two types of projects: Planning and Management and Acquisition and Construction.

Projects should be independent of other work that may or may not be completed. Examples of eligible projects can be found in [Attachment 1](#) of the application package available on the Coastal Program website.

Geographic Requirement

Projects must take place within the boundaries of the [coastal zone](#) (eligible applicants listed above) and/or have a direct impact on this geographic area. Planning and management projects may extend beyond the boundary if it can be shown that the project will benefit the area covered in the coastal zone.

Matching Requirements

Grants are awarded on a 50/50 matching basis. Applicants may provide more than 50 percent of a project's costs, however, in no case may the applicant provide less. Match may be in the form of either cash or in-kind services (e.g., donated municipal staff time, volunteer time, donated materials, donated mileage, etc.)

Maximum Grant Amount

Not more than \$50,000 will be awarded to any project or applicant.

Project Schedule

Projects may not begin prior to July 1, 2007, and must be completed by December 31, 2008. Extensions of the completion date beyond December 31, 2008 will be considered for projects demonstrating a special need, and will be subject to approval by NOAA and OCRM.

Public Hearing Requirement

Municipalities and regional planning commissions are required to hold public hearings prior to submitting an application.

Submit Applications to:

New Hampshire Coastal Program, Dept. of Environmental Services, 50 International Drive, Suite 200
Portsmouth, NH 03801

For further assistance please contact Dave Murphy at (603) 559-0021 or e-mail: dmurphy@des.state.nh.us

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Stafford, Brentwood and Lee Selected to Compete in National Process to Help Protect Land ■

NHCP recently selected three land conservation projects for consideration for Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) funding: the Isinglass River conservation corridor in Stafford, the Exeter River protection project in Brentwood, and Great Bay drainage project in Lee. These proposals will go on to a group of reviewers at the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), who will decide which will make the national priority list. Then, depending on funding availability, Congress selects the winning projects, and recipients will be notified in October, 2007.

As land becomes increasingly rare, Seacoast towns look to the federal CELCP to fund local land protection efforts. CELCP, a tremendously competitive program where states vie for space on a national priority list, aims to protect coastal lands with significant ecological value.

The Coastal Program received five project proposals to consider, requesting CELCP funding totaling \$12,266,500 to protect 2,965 acres of land. To qualify, land had to be located within the 42 coastal watershed towns and provide a one to one match.



"The level of quality of the proposals was extraordinary," said Ted Diers, Coastal Program manager. "I'm sure that they will compete well in the national contest," he added.

Under CELCP, each of the 34 states with coastal management programs can submit up to three proposals at no more than \$3 million apiece. Although CELCP gives priority to land with significant ecological value, other factors such as threat of immediate development, and aesthetic, recreation and historic values influence a project's score.

Successful projects must also demonstrate that landowners are willing to participate and that the projects are ready to roll. Lastly, proposals showing tie-in to state, regional and local plans get more weight.

In addition to adherence to local plans, the CELCP process requires states to develop a CELCP plan in order to be eligible to nominate projects. [*The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds*](#), released in August, was initiated by the Coastal Program and N.H. Estuaries Project to help fulfill that requirement, and served as the foundation of the state's draft CELCP plan, which was sent to NOAA for review and approval in December. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, The Nature Conservancy, and the Strafford and Rockingham regional planning commissions were all major players in the development of the plan.

New Hampshire CELCP proposals for consideration for funding for fiscal year 2008:

- The Isinglass River conservation corridor in Strafford, submitted by the town of Strafford with the Trust for the Public Land for \$1.3 million, would protect 315 acres, including significant river frontage.
- The Exeter River protection project, submitted by the town of Brentwood for \$2.4 million, which would protect 367 acres of land and help complete a protected greenway along the Exeter River.
- The Great Bay drainage project, submitted by the town of Lee for \$2.8 million, would protect 570 acres of sensitive watershed in Lee.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ The Inside Scoop: Ten Reasons to Start a Pet Waste Outreach Campaign This Year ■



Don't forget a plastic bag when walking your dog!

You've stepped in dog poop one too many times at your local park. You've read something about the link between pet waste and poor water quality, and you've noticed a lot of dogs in the neighborhood. The Inside Scoop: it could be time for a pet waste outreach campaign! Less dog waste in the watershed means a happier and healthier community for all. Here's ten more reasons to take action to reduce pet waste:

1. Improve water quality.

Just like human sewage, untreated pet fecal matter is harmful to waterways. Rain washes dog waste and the associated disease-causing organisms, such as giardia and salmonella, into rivers, beaches and bays via storm drains. Enough bacteria make water unsafe for drinking and swimming and also contribute to shellfish bed closures.

2. Reduce SIP (stepping in poop) occurrences.

You've stepped in dog poop one too many times. Need we say more.

3. Reduce public health risks associated with bacteria-laden domestic dog poop.

Pet waste left anywhere is a potential public health risk. Pet waste on playing fields, sidewalks, or parks can be unhealthy and messy. Even at home, responsible pet owners should throw pet waste in the trash or flush it down the toilet to prevent water pollution associated with bacteria-laden waste.

4. Meet new people.

Talking about dog poop is a great icebreaker. You'll meet people and their pets (also good icebreakers) and like-minded folks who want to help keep pet waste out of the water.

5. Increase awareness that water carries this and other types of pollution into water bodies that people use to swim, fish and recreate.

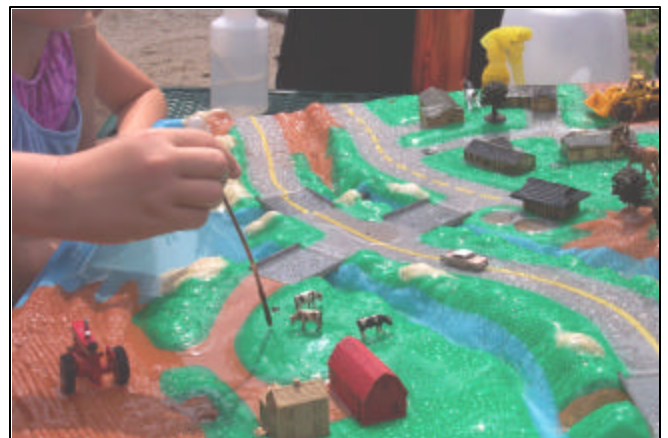
Many potential outreach activities involved in a pet waste outreach campaign, like stormdrain stenciling, the EnviroScape and scoop the poop pledge program, all help people make the connection between water quality and what they leave on the ground or pour down a stormdrain.

6. Empower the community; build community spirit around one issue.

People coming together, making a positive change in town, caring about what's on the ground—these things are what makes a community, well, a community. And we think it's a beautiful thing.

7. Resources are available to help!

There has never been a better time to start a pet waste outreach campaign. ***The Inside Scoop: How to Conduct a Pet Waste Outreach Campaign*** gives you all the tools to design and implement a well researched and sound campaign! This user-friendly guide will show you how to work with local partners to motivate dog owners/walkers to pick up after their dogs and dispose of the waste in an environmentally sound and safe way. It provides readers with background information to help decide if they want to start a pet waste outreach campaign, steps on how to implement and promote a successful campaign, suggested outreach activities, and resources and examples to make campaigns easier. A successful campaign in Dover, N.H. is also presented to give you ideas and encouragement. The manual will be available soon at www.des.nh.gov/coastal.



The EnviroScape outreach activity helps people make the connection between water quality and what they leave on the ground or pour down a stormdrain.

8. Funds are available to help implement a pet waste outreach campaign.

Proposals are due on March 30, 2007 no later than 4 p.m. The RFP will be available soon at www.des.nh.gov/coastal.

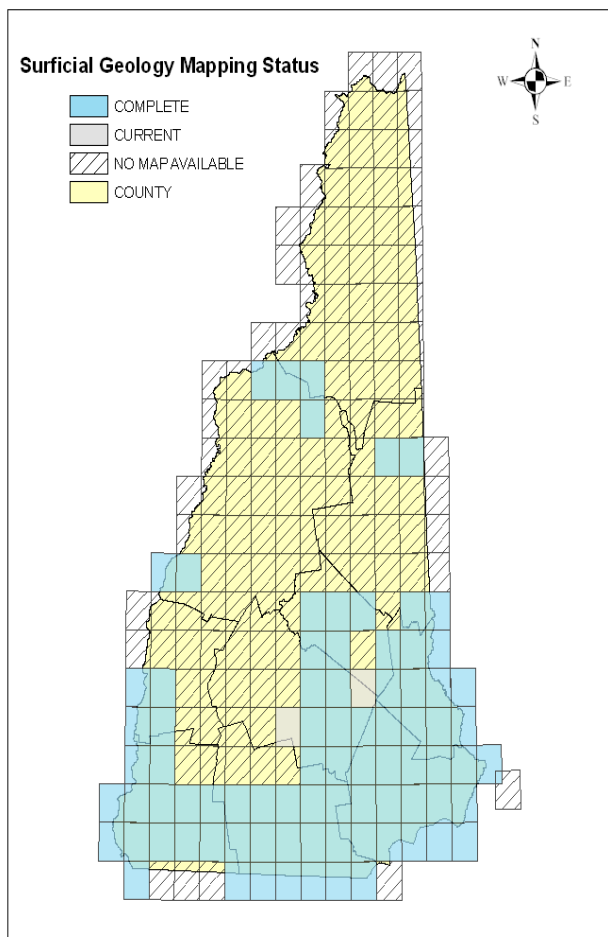
9. A workshop on how to use the new guide to develop an outreach campaign will be held on February 15, 2007 from 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. at the DES Pease field office. Save the date!

10. A pet waste outreach campaign is a fun way to make a positive difference!

[Back to Cover Page](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ NHCP Welcomes New Seacoast Groundwater Availability Project Coordinator ■



Map showing status of the digitization of surficial geology. Maps for 26 quadrangles covering the Seacoast area have been converted.

George Fields joined NHCP in early September, funded through a one-year NOAA grant, as the groundwater project coordinator for the Seacoast Groundwater Availability project. George is a New Hampshire licensed professional geologist and brings over 18 years of experience to the project in geology, groundwater, and geophysical applications. He will be working closely with members of the U.S. Geological Survey, the New Hampshire Geological Survey and local Seacoast planning organizations to provide interpretive study results and outreach materials that are best suited for the respective town, watershed, or planning group.

The proximity of the Seacoast region in southeastern New Hampshire to metropolitan Boston has led to a 36 percent population increase over the past 20 years. This population increase and associated development has been accompanied by an estimated 50 percent increase in the use of ground and surface-water resources for drinking, industrial, and other purposes during the same period. Ensuring the sustainability of water resources into the future will require quantification of water storage and movement in surface and groundwater systems and a thorough understanding of past, current and future water demands. To gain a better understanding of these processes, the participants of the Seacoast Groundwater Availability project are in the “home stretch” of the three-year multidisciplinary project, with the delivery of final products scheduled for late summer 2007.

Federal and state participants of this project are the U.S. Geological Survey, and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program, Geological Survey

and Water Supply Engineering Bureau. In addition, Seacoast communities have contributed substantial resources to the project. Finally, the Groundwater Project Advisory team, made up of water-resource consultants, water suppliers, and planners in southeastern New Hampshire, has contributed their time and knowledge to this undertaking. If you have any questions about the project, please contact George Fields at gfields@des.state.nh.us or (603) 271-2875.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ There's no "I" in Team or Salt Marsh ■

As more and more salt marsh restoration projects are being taken on by towns, conservation districts and nonprofit groups, the new Salt Marsh Restoration Technical Review Team will increase technical review and coordination between groups. The role of this team will be to review restoration projects as they evolve from an initial idea through the planning, design and implementation stages.

NHCP staffer Beth Lambert will organize and chair the team, bringing together professionals from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DES, Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of New Hampshire and others on January 17 for a kickoff meeting.

If you have a project you would like to present or skills to bring to the team, please contact Beth Lambert at (603) 559-0022 or blambert@des.state.nh.us. The first meeting is on Wednesday, January 17, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the DES Pease field office.



[Back to Cover Page](#)

Blue Ocean Society Reports 2006 International Coastal Cleanup Data Results

Cigarette butts were again the Number 1 item found at the annual International Coastal Cleanup Day in September. The Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, which coordinated the event with NHCP funding, reports a startling 50,549 cigarette butts collected from 26 sites along the coast and Great Bay. The second and third top items from the day were caps and lids (4,317) and food and candy wrappers (4,137). Among this year's unusual items were a pipe, Lego pieces and underwear. During the 2006 New Hampshire effort, 926 volunteers picked up 7,254 pounds of trash. Read the full data collection report to find out tallies for all types of marine debris at www.blueoceansociety.org/reports/2006%20results.pdf.

Cigarette butts are the most common item found during beach cleanups in New Hampshire and the country. They are not just unsightly litter, they are also a danger to wildlife, a health hazard to people, and pollutants of our waters and soils. Learn more about why cigarette butts left behind in our coastal watershed are a problem at www.des.nh.gov/coastal/CIDBI/index.html.

■ Grant Funding Available for Pet Waste Outreach Projects ■

The DES NHCP and Watershed Assistance Section are seeking proposals for outreach projects in the coastal watershed from state and government agencies, municipalities and nonprofit groups. The RFP and more information will be available soon at www.des.nh.gov/coastal.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Grant Funding Available for Marine Debris Outreach to Boaters ■



The BoatUS Foundation, a national nonprofit organization focusing on boater education, is looking to fund creative and innovative projects that teach boaters cleaner habits on the water. The focus topic for their 2007 Clean Water Grant Program is marine debris. All proposals will be considered but those projects aimed at educating boaters about preventing marine debris will receive preference. Up to \$4,000 per group is available to small, local nonprofit organizations conducting educational programs. Past projects have addressed pump-out education, pollution prevention, monofilament fishing line recycling, and preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species. Projects must involve educating boaters. Application deadline is February 1, 2007. To download an application, visit www.boatus.com/cleanwater/grants.

BoatUS Foundation is also accepting applications for the Boating Safety and Clean Water Environmental Clean Water Environmental Leadership Award. To view guidelines and make a nomination, visit www.boatus.com/foundation/EnviroAward/default.asp.

■ Calendar of Events Available on Website ■

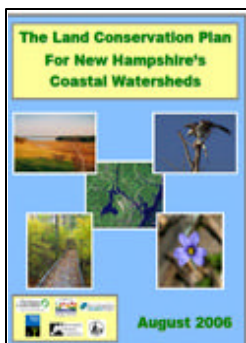
Current events are regularly posted online at www.des.nh.gov/asp/DESCalendar/. Check the calendar of events frequently to find new postings. The following are upcoming events of particular interest to coastal folks:

- **DES Pet Waste Outreach Project Development Workshop, February 15, 2007**
- **New Hampshire Coastal Program and Office of Energy and Planning New Hampshire Tidal Energy Workshop, February 23, 2007**
- **New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference, May 21-23, 2007**

[Back to Cover Page](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS & PLANNING TOOLS

■ Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds ■



This plan was developed with significant public input through a partnership of the Coastal Program, N.H. Estuaries Project, The Nature Conservancy, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Rockingham Planning Commission, and Strafford Regional Planning Commission. The Plan identifies 75 Conservation Focus Areas, which were identified through a systematic, state-of-the-art analysis of a wealth of natural resources data. Collectively, these areas comprise approximately 190,300 acres, or 36 percent of the watershed.

For more information and to download the plan, visit www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/newhampshire/projects/art19061.html.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Coastal Volunteer Biological Assessment Program Report ■

This report presents biomonitoring results from the 2006 season of Coastal Volunteer Biological Assessment Program. From late August to October, volunteers from local watershed groups sampled data from rivers and streams on macroinvertebrates, or living organisms without a backbone that can be seen with the naked eye.

Volunteers from the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee, Cocheco River Watershed Coalition, and Oyster River Watershed Association sampled sites in the Cocheco River, Oyster River and Exeter River watersheds. In total, 29 sites were monitored.

Each group will receive a copy of the report, helping them to understand their local watersheds.

For more information, please contact Sally Soule at (603) 559-0032 or ssoule@des.state.nh.us

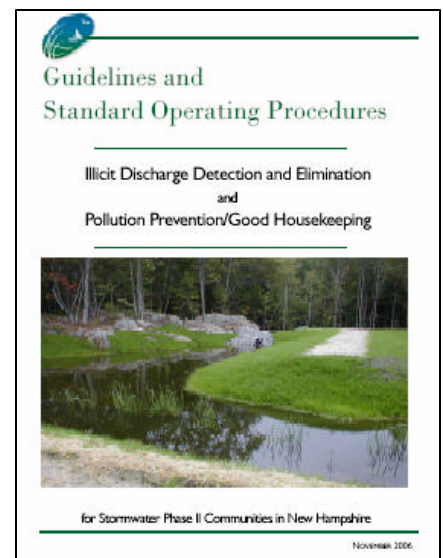
[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ New Stormwater Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures Manual ■

Designed specifically for New Hampshire MS4 communities, this manual is the creation of commonly accepted technical standards and guidance on stormwater management measures controlling the quantity and quality of stormwater produced from municipal activities. It can help jump start communities' illicit discharge and elimination programs and provide a basis for future training of employees. Specifically, the manual addresses two of the new control measures mandated for MS4 towns by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: #3 (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) and #6 (Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping).

The New Hampshire Seacoast Stormwater Coalition completed this manual with a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and DES as authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 320 of the Clean Water Act.

For more information on the EPA's new stormwater requirements, visit www.des.nh.gov/stormwater/.



[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Buffer Characterization Maps for 42 Coastal Watershed Communities ■

The Complex Systems Research Center at the University of New Hampshire conducted a characterization of second order and higher streams within the Piscataqua/Coastal Basin of New Hampshire. GIS and remote sensing data archived in the NH GRANIT database were used to map land use, impervious surface coverage, and transportation infrastructure within standard buffers around each stream segment. These factors were then analyzed to produce a categorical indicator representing the status of each stream.

The results are presented on community-based, large format maps displaying the stream characterizations and the corresponding acreage tables. These maps can give towns a rough idea of how intact their current buffers are at the 150 and 300 foot mark.

To download maps, visit www.granit.sr.unh.edu/cgi-bin/load_file?PATH=/projects/maprep/index.html. For more information, contact Jodi Castallo, New Hampshire Estuaries Project, at Jodi.Castallo@unh.edu or (603)-862-2641.

■ Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast ■



Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment, a collaboration between the Union of Concerned Scientists and a team of independent experts, has released *Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast*. This 30-page report outlines the findings of new state-of-the-art research on recent and projected changes in the regional climate—from rising temperatures to reduced snow cover, increased sea level, and more extreme weather events.

To download a copy of the report, go to www.climatechoices.org/ne/index.html.

To download the eight page summary, go to www.climatechoices.org/assets/documents/climatechoices/The-Changing-Northeast-Climate.pdf.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

About this e-newsletter

The Rip Tide is NHCP's quarterly e-newsletter.

All subscribers' e-mail addresses on this list are kept confidential and are not shared by NHCP.

Contact Cathy Coletti, editor, at (603) 559-0024 or ccoletti@des.state.nh.us with questions or comments.

About NHCP

NHCP is a federally approved coastal program authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act and is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. NHCP strives to maintain a balance between the use and preservation of coastal resources. Through partnerships, funding and science, NHCP works to improve water quality and decision making in 42 coastal watershed communities; supports maritime uses; and restores coastal wetlands.